

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/065,343
Docket No.: 9527-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action rejected all presently-pending claims 1-22. Specifically, the Office Action rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Moreover, the Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 8-11, 12, 16-17 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Groves (US Patent No. 6,402,546) in view of Tomaro (US Patent No. 3,937,543). In addition, the Office Action rejected claims 6, 7, 17 and 18 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Groves in view of Tomaro, and further in view of Bean (U. S. Patent No. 6,428,348). Reconsideration and allowance of those claims is respectfully requested.

Interview Summary

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Gilman for granting a telephonic interview on September 7, 2004, during which the 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph and the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejections were discussed. More particularly, the undersigned and the Examiner discussed that the DC plug of the present invention is detachable from the DC connector port without an aid of using any mechanical tool while the DC plug is prevented from an unintentional separation from the DC connector as recited in claim 1 of the proposed amendments faxed to the Examiner on September 2, 2004. The Examiner requested the limitation 'wherein the DC port is detachably snapped to the casing' be added to the proposed amendments. The Examiner also requested that at line 7 of paragraph [0025] of the specification be amended to include the word 'unintentional' before the word 'separation'. The Examiner indicated that such amendments should overcome the existing prior art references. However, the Examiner indicated that additional search would be conducted based on the amendments.

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Response to Claims Rejections under 35 USC§112

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

The Office Action states that how the separation of the DC plug from the DC connector can be made is not described. Moreover, the specification (p. 5, para. 0025) suggests a structural feature to prevent a separation of the DC plug 218 from the DC connector port 214 while allowing a relative rotation there between.

However, according to FIG. 3 and the specification (p. 5, para. 0024), the DC plug 218 and the DC connector port 214 are connected by, for example, by using snap fitting or something similar to that effect etc., which suggests that a separation can be accomplished without an aid of using any mechanical tool while the DC plug is prevented from an unintentional separation from the DC connector.

In addition, the description of lines 5-8 of [0025] the specification is amended as below:

"When the DC plug 218 is inserted in the DC connector port 214, a rim of the opening 210 of the casing 208 engages by fitting with the slot 220 of the insulating part 218a to prevent an unintentional separation of the DC plug 218 from the DC connector port 214 while allowing a relative rotation there between."

It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application and may place the application more clarity. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Response to Claims Rejections under 35 USC§103

Claims 1-5, 8-11, 12, 16, 17 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Groves in view of Tomaro.

As will be fully explained below, Groves in view of Tomaro does not disclose the subject matter defined in claims 1, 10, 12 and 21 as proposed herein.

(1) Independent claim 1, as amended, states:

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Claim 1. A power adapter having a freely rotatable direct current (DC) plug connection, comprising:

a main body, including a casing that respectively encloses an adapter circuit board, a DC connector port and an alternating current (AC) connector port, the DC connector port and the AC connector port being respectively arranged on the adapter circuit board;

a DC wire, having a first terminal electrically connected to a DC plug that mates with the DC connector port according to a freely rotatable manner, wherein the DC plug is detachably snapped to the DC connector port without an aid of using any mechanical tool while the DC plug is prevented from an unintentional separation from the DC connector; and

an AC wire, having a second terminal electrically connected to the AC connector port.

(Emphasis Added)

Independent claim 1 is allowable for at least the reasons that Groves in view of Tomaro at least do not disclose, teach, or suggest the features that "the DC plug is detachably snapped to the DC connector port without an aid of using any mechanical tool while the DC plug is prevented from an unintentional separation from the DC connector" described above.

First of all, Groves does not disclose, suggest or teach that the DC plug mates the DC connector port in a freely rotatable manner. Moreover, in the patent of Groove, the cable 404 can not be disconnected from the assembly 402.

In addition, in the patent of Tomaro, the plug 24 can not be disconnected from the conductors 50 and 58 since it is disclosed in col. 3, lines 7-10 of Tomaro that:

"fastener 63 is of the type which can be pushed on to pin 30 by moving it toward the left in FIG. 3, but which cannot be moved to the right with respect to pin 30 once it has been pushed on to the pin"

(2) Similarly, independent claim 10 is also allowable for at least the reasons that Groves in view of Tomaro at least do not disclose, teach, or suggest the features that "wherein the DC plug is detachably snapped to the DC connector port without an aid of using any mechanical tool while the DC plug is prevented from an unintentional separation from the DC connector" disclosed in claim 10. The reason is similar to that described in section (1).

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(3) In addition, independent claim 12 is also allowable for at least the reasons that Groves in view of Tomaro at least do not disclose, teach, or suggest the features that "when the DC plug is detachably snapped to the DC connector port, a rim of an opening of the casing is engaged by fitting with a slot of the DC plug to prevent an unintentional separation of the DC plug from the DC connector port while allowing a relative rotation between the DC plug and the DC connector port and a detachment of the DC plug from the DC connector port without an aid of using any mechanical tool" disclosed in claim 12. The reason is similar to that described in section (1).

(4) In addition, independent claim 21 is also allowable for at least the reasons that Groves in view of Tomaro at least do not disclose, teach, or suggest the features that "when the electrical plug is detachably snapped to the DC connector port, the rim of an opening of the casing is engaged by fitting with the slot of the electrical plug to prevent an unintentional separation of the electrical plug from the DC connector port while allowing a relative rotation between the electrical plug and the DC connector port and a detachment of the DC plug from the DC connector port without an aid of using any mechanical tool" disclosed in claim 21. The reason is similar to that described in section (1).

Thus, Groves and Tomaro, let alone or combination thereof, does not make claims 1, 10, 12 and 21 obvious. The withdrawal of the rejections and the allowance of claims 1, 10, 12 and 21 are therefore earnestly solicited.

If independent claims 1, 10, 12 and 21 are allowable over the prior art of record, then their dependent claims 2-9, 11, 13-20 and 22 are allowable as a matter of law, at least because of the reason that these dependent claims contain all features/elements/steps of its respective independent claims 1, 10, 12 and 21.

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Claims 6, 7, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Groves in view of Tomaro and further in view of Bean.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims 6, 7, 17 and 18 patently define over the prior art since their independent claims 1 and 12 patently define over the prior art.

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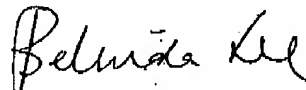
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all pending claims 1-22 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date :

Sept 29, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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